

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-10 IO-13 MC-02 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/097 W

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O 091458Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6067
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3270

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IS, US, MILI, PFOR, XF
SUBJECT: ISRAELI DISPLEASURE AT BEING EXCLUDED FROM "PREFERRED
LIST" OF 7.S. ARMS CLIENTS

REF: TEL AVIV 3226

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON TELLS CABINET OF DEEP
ISRAELI CONCERN AT "NON-INCLUSION" IN LIST OF PREFERRED
STATES TO RECEIVE U.S. ARMS. LABOR PARTY SOURCE WORRIED
THAT ISSUE MAY WEAKEN ALIGNMENT ELECTORAL SUPPORT.
UNIVERSAL DISAPPROBATION ON THE PART OF DOMMENTATORS,
EDITORIALISTS. END SUMMARY

1. AT THE CABINET SESSION MAY 8 ALLON EXPRESSED DEEP
CONCERN THAT ISRAEL HAS NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN WASHINGTON'S
"LIST OF PREFERRED STATES," AND SAID THAT HE WOULD RAISE
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THE ISSUE WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN LONDON. THE FOLLOWING
IS EXCERPTED FROM THE CABINET COMMUNIQUE.

BEGIN TEXT

2. THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS REFERRED TO REPORTS CONCERNING A PROPOSAL

SUBMITTED FOR DECISION BY THE U.S. PRESIDENT, REGARDING DETERMINATION OF TWO CATEGORIES OF STATES IN THE SPHERES OF MILITARY ARMAMENTS, JOINT PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS AND COLLABORATION IN THE PROVISION OF TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE. ACCORDING TO THE PROPOSAL, ISRAEL IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE CATEGORY OF PREFERRED STATES. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT ISRAEL HAD VOICED TO THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION ITS DEEP CONCERN OVER ITS NON-INCLUSION IN THE LIST OF PREFERRED STATES, AND THAT HE WOULD BE RAISING THE ISSUE ON WEDNESDAY, AT HIS MEETING WITH THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE. MR. ALLON NOTED THAT WHAT WAS IN QUESTION SO FAR WAS A DRAFT THAT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED THE APPROVAL OF THE U.S. PRESIDENT, AND (THAT) THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES TRIED TO SOOTHE ISRAEL--THAT THE PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION DID NOT SPELL A CHANGE TO THE WORSE IN U.S.-ISRAEL ARMS PURCHASING RELATIONS, WHICH WOULD CONTINUE AS HERETOFORE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ADDED THAT THESE SOOTHING STATEMENTS COULD NOT SERVE TO ALLAY ISRAEL'S CONCERN. ISRAEL WOULD PERSIST IN AND INCREASE ITS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL. REPLYING TO MINISTERS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT THE CABINET WOULD REVERT TO THE SUBJECT FOLLOWING HIS DISCUSSION THEREOF WITH SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE. END TEXT

3. A LABOR PARTY SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, WHETHER KNOWINGLY OR NOT, WAS CUTTING UNCLASSIFIED

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INTO THE ALIGNMENT'S ELECTORAL SUPPORT BY MAKING AN ISSUE OF U.S.-ISRAELI ARMS RELATIONSHIPS LESS THAN TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE ELECTION.

4. THE NEGATIVE REACTION NOTED IN THE PRESS (SEE MEDIA CABLE FOR MAY 8, REFTEL) CONTINUED UNABATED TODAY. ACCORDING TO THE JERUSALEM POST'S MILITARY CORRESPONDENT (GOODMAN), ISRAELI OFFICIALS WONDER WHY AHERN AND GELB FOUND IT NECESSARY TO "CLARIFY" THE STATE DEPARTMENT POSITION ON ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL, SINCE ISRAEL HAS NEVER RECEIVED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT EQUAL TO THAT OF NATO AS FAR AS ARMS REQUESTS ARE CONCERNED. GOODMAN WROTE THAT ISRAELI DEFENSE OFFICIALS, WHILE NOT SURPRISED, ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE U.S. STATEMENT. A NEW PATTERN IS DEVELOPING IN U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS, ACCORDING TO GOODMAN'S SOURCES. THE LATEST STATEMENT ON ARMS SUPPLIES CAME ON THE EVE OF CARTER'S MEETING WITH ASSAD, AND IN THE WAKE OF THE ABORTED KFIR SALE TO ECUADOR; CANCELLA-

TION OF THE PROMISED CONCUSSION BOMBS AND THE FLIR NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT; AND CONTINUED DELAYING TACTICS OVER CO-PRODUCTION OF THE F-16 AND OTHER WEAPONS REQUESTS. THE POST'S WALLFISH, WRITING FROM JERUSALEM, SAID THAT ISRAEL PREFERS TO AVOID THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PREFERRED AN NON-PREFERRED CATEGORIES OF STATES, ARGUING THAT WHILE IN PRACTICAL TERMS THE U.S.HAS CARRIED OUT ITS SIGNED COMMITMENTS TO ISRAEL, IT COULD IN THE FUTURE REVERSE ITSELF AND MAKE "NON-FAVORED" ISRAEL WAIT IN LINE FOR FUTURE ARMS AGREEMENTS. IF CATEGORIES ARE UNAVOIDABLE, ISRAEL WILL INSIST ON AN AMERICAN ASSURANCE THAT IT ENJOYS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, ACCORDING TO WALLFISH.

5. EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS UNIVERSALLY CRITICAL. DAVAR WROTE THAT ISRAEL'S NON-INCLUSION AMONG THE UNCLASSIFIED

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FAVORED NATIONS PLACES IT IN AN INFERIOR POLITICAL SITUATION AND ACTUALLY CONFLICTS WITH THE AMERICAN UNDERTAKING GIVEN BY THE REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION AT THE TIME OF THE LAST INTERIM AGREEMENT. THIS MAY UNDERMINE U.S.CREDIBILITY WITH THE ISRAELI PUBLIC, DAVAR ADDED, AND IT MUST SURELY BE CLEAR THAT WITHOUT NECESSARY UNSHAKEABLE SECURITY GUARANTEES ON THE SAFEGUARDING OF ISRAEL'S MIGHT, IT WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS TOWARDS ANY SORT OF COMPROMISE SETTLEMENTS. EMERGENCY PREPARATION BY THE AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERSHP IS THUS A WELCOME MANIFESTATION IN LIGHT OF U.S.- ISRAELI CONFLICTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

6. MAARIV BITTERLY NOTED THAT ISRAEL S INCREASINGLY BEING MADE TO FEEL THAT SHE HAS TURNED INTO A NATION OF PARANOIDS.ISRAEL HAS BEEN RANKED WITH...(OF ALL COUNTRIES) MAURETANIA IN THE LARGE CAMP OF NONFAVORED NATIONS, MAARIV OBSERVED SARCASTICALLY. WITH REGARD TO ONE TYPE OF SOPHISTICATED U.S. WEAPON--THE WEAPON OF "PACIFICATION"--ISRAEL IS THE MOST PREFERRED NATION, SAID MAARIV. ACCORDING TO THE JERUSALEM POST, IT IS HARD TO SUPPRESS THE CONCLUSION THAT AN OLD PATTERN IS REASSERTING ITSELF IN WASHINGTON WITH RE-NEWED VIGOR.WHAT THIS IMPLIES IS THAT A DIRECT MESSAGE IS TO BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN ISRAELI POLITICAL CONCESSIONS AND AMERICAN WEAPONS SUPPLIED. THIS IS JUDICIOUS "ARMS TWISTING," IRONICALLY CONCLUDED THE POST.
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